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SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1958



Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector -

J.E. FANNON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June, 1959.

To The Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1958.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951.

The report shows that the health of the District has remained satisfactory during the year and that there has been no undue incidence of infectious disease.

For the first time in these reports I have referred to the potential danger to the public health from radiation hazards and the vigilance which will have to be exercised by Environmental Health Authorities on this subject.

Although difficulties face your Council in providing Council house accommodation at a reasonable cost, the provision of further accommodation, especially for old people requires the most careful consideration. The need for this type of accommodation is never reflected in the waiting list. Old people require to be coaxed (not forced) to accept accommodation suitable to their physical capacity. The provision and acceptance of such accommodation, proves ultimately to be of economic advantage and a blessing to old people.

I am indebted to Mr. J. Fannon, your Public Health Inspector, for his co-operation and assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Mrs. J. Sammons, for her efficient services.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. I. Sartin, and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

John D. Dawson.

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1958

A. Area - 41,481 acres.

Rateable value: 1st April 1959 - £39,559.

Production of a penny rate: 1958/59 - £165 (estimate)
1959/60 - £161 (estimate)

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 5,710

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		Comparative Rates
				(a) Sherborne R.D. (b) England & Wales.
Total	42	45	Rate per 1,000	
Legitimate	39	44	resident pop:	
Illegitimate	3	1	= 15.3	15.9 16.4

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	Nil	Nil	Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = Nil	Nil	22.4
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DEATHS.

Total	29	36	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 11.4	11.5	11.7
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Deaths in infants under one year.	1	-	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 11.4	11.4	22.5
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		<u>1958.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1955.</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs		1	2	2	1
" " Other Cancer		13	9	-	-
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)		6	2	12	9
" " Other heart or vascular diseases		25	18	-	-
" " Influenza		Nil	Nil	Nil	2
" " Pneumonia		3	4	3	2
" " Motor vehicle accidents		Nil	Nil	2	1
" " All other accidents		Nil	2	2	2
" " Suicide		Nil	1	2	Nil
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia		Nil	Nil	Nil	1

B. Nature of the District.

The district is rural in character, its main industry being agriculture. A large number of outworkers carry on glove making in their homes for factories situated outside the district.

C. Personal Health Services in the District.

The personal health services (including the ambulance service) in the area are provided by the Dorset County Council. These have proved satisfactory during the year.

The Public Health Laboratory Services have proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

Prophylactic Innoculations.

Preventive inoculation against infectious disease is the responsibility of the County Council, through its School Medical and Child Welfare services and the Private Medical Practitioner service.

The normal programme for protection against diphtheria, whooping cough, small pox and tetanus was interfered with by the demands of the poliomyelitis vaccination scheme.

During the year the following treatments were carried out.

Poliomyelitis.

615 of those eligible for treatment had received the two primary inoculations during the year.

It is estimated that approximately 42% of the children in the age group 0 - 15 years had received primary treatment by the end of the year.

Diphtheria.

75 children (over 100% of the number of births during the preceding year) received the two primary treatments and 39 a 'booster' treatment.

Whooping Cough.

98 children received the three primary treatments and ten a 'booster' treatment.

Tetanus.

37 children received the three primary treatments and 3, a 'booster' treatment.

Small pox.

75 children (i.e. over 100% of the number of births during the preceding year) received primary vaccination and nine persons were revaccinated.

D. Environmental Health Services.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset Area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is rather less than one half day per week.

Public Health Inspector (Part time) - J.E. Fannon,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

The Public Health Inspector also carries out the duties of Meat Inspector.

Clerical Staff - one clerk (part time)

The trend noted in the previous year's report has continued in 1958 and once again a large proportion of the Public Health Inspector's time has been taken up with sewerage and sewage disposal and in the refuse disposal service. It is not suggested that this proportion is unduly high bearing in mind the importance of these services and the scattered nature of the district. But with, however, the existing establishment of one officer in what is virtually a dual appointment, every detail, however routine, has to be dealt with by him.

WATER SUPPLY.

Rainfall for the year 1958 was 34.12 inches.

New Works.

The 3" pumping main (2,100 yards), booster station, reservoir and supply main (700 yards) for the Higher Clatcombe area (Oborne and Castleton) were brought into operation. This enabled the Council to operate the outside area order for Clatcombe and to cease purchase of water from the Sherborne Urban District Council for properties on the higher levels. These works made it possible to abandon the doubtful supply from Clatcombe Valley Springs.

The practice of taking water from these springs and boosting to Adber was also discontinued during the year. The borehole supply at Rowbarrow Hill (Trent and Sandford Orcas) was abandoned as soon as water became available from the Compton reservoir.

The majority of the houses on private supplies in Over and Nether Compton were transferred to this Council's mains.

The contractors completed the main laying in Trent.

Quantity.

In the absence of a long dry summer and with the increased supply from Thornford there were no general shortages of supply during the year.

A total of 98,892,000 gallons was obtained from the Lake boreholes during the year.

Chlorination of all the Council's supplies is carried out and regular samples submitted for bacteriological examination and for free chlorine estimation. The details are given below -

<u>Council Supplies (Public).</u>	<u>Bacteriological</u>	<u>Chemical</u>
Northern Parishes	83	2
Trent & Sandford Orcas	1	-
Leigh	5	1
Southern Parishes	1	1
Total	90	4

Private Supplies (Continued over)

WATER SUPPLY (Continued)

Total C/Forward 90

4

Private Supplies.

	<u>Bacteriological</u>	<u>Chemical</u>
Nether Compton	4	-
Trent	10	-
Castleton	1	-
Over Compton	1	-
Bradford Abbas	9	-
Clifton Maybank	3	-
Grand Total	118	4

New Connections.

The following new connections to the Council's mains were made during the year:-

Domestic Use	73
Agricultural purposes	23
Other purposes	10

Distribution.Dwellings and Population supplied from Public Mains.

Parish	Houses with Public Supply.	Houses with stand-pipes.	Houses with supply direct to house.	Population supplied (estimated).
Batcombe	6	-	6	21
Beerhackett	18	-	18	63
Bradford Abbas	126	5	121	441
Castleton	26	4	22	91
Caundle Bishop	107	1	106	374
Caundle Marsh	22	1	21	77
Caundle Purse	46	-	46	161
Chetnole	68	3	65	238
Clifton Maybank	8	-	8	28
Folke	107	4	103	374
Goathill	10	-	10	35
Haydon	19	5	14	66
Hermitage	20	-	20	70
Hilfield	10	-	10	35
Holnest	47	-	47	164
Holwell	96	4	92	336
Leigh	115	4	111	403
Leweston	2	-	2	126
Lillington	22	1	21	77
Longburton	82	5	77	287
Melbury Bubb	9	-	9	31
Nether Compton	50	-	50	175
North Wootton	8	1	7	28
Oborne	36	2	34	126
Over Compton	15	2	13	112
Poyntington	12	-	12	42
Ryme Intrinseca	40	-	40	140
Sandford Orcas	52	2	50	182
Thornford	121	4	117	423
Trent	35	4	31	122
Yetminster	195	-	195	682
Totals	1,530	52	1,478	5,530

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Trent. The sewerage scheme for this village progressed satisfactorily and was completed by the end of the year. At the request of the Trent Estate the Council agreed to accept drainage from five farms in the village, a practice not previously allowed in the Council's sewerage schemes. The stronger sewage that will result to be dealt with will set an interesting problem at the disposal works, but if it can be treated satisfactorily one feels that the precedent should be followed in other villages where farm drainage contributes in large measure to the ditch nuisances.

New Schemes and Extensions. With the easing of financial restrictions the Council resolved to proceed with completion of the sewerage schemes at Alweston, Bradford Abbas and Thornford. In anticipation of this plans for a number of new private houses have been submitted, particularly in Bradford Abbas. There is little doubt that the absence of main sewerage has been the major obstacle to private housing development in this district since the war. With completion of the proposed schemes one can confidently expect an increase of house building, especially in the parishes near to Yeovil and a consequent much to be desired increase in the district's rateable value.

Drainage. During the past few years, as the cost of building has increased, the 'do it yourself' handyman, in this district as in many others, has taken to building his own house raising a new problem to the public health and building inspectors.

Whereas the reputable professional builder usually needs little in the way of supervision beyond an occasional visit and the routine testing of drains on completion, these enthusiastic amateurs begin, more often than not, without any idea of the basic principles involved. In consequence, if the building byelaws are to be upheld, the Council's officers find themselves acting as Clerk of Works and even as building instructors, at some expense to their time and patience.

Since many of the people concerned do the work at week-ends and in the evenings this means some out of hours visits for your officers, but the alternative is either to accept sub-standard work or to insist on the removal of details which do not comply with the byelaws and to require the work to be done again. Such action is unpopular and the argument is raised that if the building is for a person's own occupation he should be allowed to set his own standards without official interference. This would, however, inevitably result in a crop of 'jerry building' and there is in any case no guarantee that the houses will not sooner or later be put up for sale.

Whilst applauding the initiative of these people one feels that it would be a mistake to relax building standards on that account. Instead, this advice and technical help given by the Council's officers should be looked upon as just one more facet of the local government service to its present and future ratepayers.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House Refuse. (i) Collection. The monthly collection of domestic refuse has been maintained. In view of the restricted tipping space now remaining at Thornford, the interpretation of what is and what is not, 'domestic' refuse is of necessity being more strictly applied.

(ii) Disposal. The negotiations referred to in last year's report towards the acquisition of Trent Barrow as a refuse tip were continued without success and the Council finally resolved to invoke compulsory purchase procedure. Formal objections were lodged by the Trent Estate, the Trent Parish Council and private individuals and a Public Local Inquiry was held early in 1959, at which the Minister refused to confirm the Compulsory Purchase Order.

Salvage. There was a fall in the value of salvage sold during the year - £133. 5s. 5d. as against £169. 5s. 11d. in 1957. This is felt to be due largely to the activities of door to door canvassers, particularly in the scrap metal trade.

PUBLIC CLEANSING (Continued)

Cesspool Emptying. The contract for this work at the Council's housing sites has been continued and is operating satisfactorily.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Polluted ditches in the more populous villages continue to be a major nuisance and will continue to be so until sewerage schemes can be proceeded with.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	<u>No. of premises on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	9	7
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	18	3
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-
	27	10
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No. of cases in which defects were:-		
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
	1	1
	1	1
	1	1

There was one case referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

No. of Outworkers = Nil.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one open-air bath at a private establishment where members of the public have occasional access by invitation.

During the summer, samples of the water were taken and found to be unsatisfactory. The pollution was traced to the springs which feed the bath being fouled by cattle. Advice was given on protection of the spring head and chlorination of the water but up to present this has not been done and the bath is not being used.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

Sixteen licences were issued during the year for the use of caravans, a further increase of four over the preceding year. Of this total eight are used as temporary accommodation on sites where house building is in progress.

One site, not licensed on account of non-provision of water supply, was also refused planning permission. The applicants lodged an appeal which was unsuccessful but at the close of the year the caravan was still on the site pending/

pending enforcement action. This site has thus been in use for more than twelve months without benefit of licence or planning permission.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

No action was called for during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee, of which Sherborne Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The work of the Committee continued to function smoothly and expeditiously.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act, within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

No premises in the district are licensed under this Act.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

Twenty-three visits and inspections were made at schools in respect of sanitation, meals facilities and water supply.

There was no change during the year in the primitive sanitation arrangements at Holwell and Nether Compton Schools, commented upon in my report for last year. In the interest of the health of the children attending these schools it is sincerely hoped that these conditions will be improved at an early date.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47.

No action was called for or taken under these Acts during the year.

HOUSING.

Total No. of houses in the district 1,930

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of houses inspected during the year 9

No. of inspections made 81

No. of informal notices served -

No. of informal notices complied with -

No. of statutory notices served 2

No. of statutory notices complied with 2

No. of houses reported under Section 16
of the Housing Act, 1957 6

Action taken by the Local Authority in
respect of such houses -

Demolition Orders made Nil

Undertakings accepted for -

Closure 3

Reconditioning 2

Other Action (Demolition) Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year Nil

Slum Clearance.

A limited amount of progress was made in connection with your Slum Clearance proposals in so far as six unfit dwellings were represented to you under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. In two of these cases, undertakings that the dwellings will be reconditioned were accepted.

HOUSING (Continued)

Overcrowding.

No cases of statutory overcrowding were found during the year.

Houses Known to be Let in Lodgings.

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.)

Nineteen applications (compared with twenty-six in 1957) were received during the year for grants under the above-mentioned Act and all were granted.

Provision of New Houses and Rehousing.

Eleven new houses were provided in the district during the year by private enterprise and no new dwellings were provided by the Local Authority. The number of Council houses in the district totals 358. Fifteen families were housed by the Council during the year.

Although there were indications during the year that you proposed to resume the building of Council houses, particularly bearing in mind the needs of old people, no building had been resumed by the end of the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 _____ 6

No. of 'dealers' subject to licensing under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk) Regulations, 1949 _____ 6

No. of 'dairies' in the District subject to registration under regulation 8 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 _____ 3

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration under regulation 8 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 _____ 7

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year -

T.T. (Pastuerised)	101
Tuberculin Tested	28
Pasteurised	99
Non-designated	7

Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 - Regulation 20.

No formal action was called for or taken during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES (Continued)

2. Other Food Premises.

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	18
Canteens - School and workplace	1
Confectioners	5
Meat and Fish	1
Grocers	-
Mixed Stores	17
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	2
Food Factories	Nil
Stalls	2 (mobile shops)
Other	2 (slaughterhouses)

No. of above subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice-cream	19
Sausages & Prepared Meats	1
Fish & Chips	Nil

No. of samples of ice-cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test

Nil

No. of above premises inspected during the year

12

No. of inspections carried out

35

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1956.

Traders generally have accepted the provisions of the regulations without demur and as the majority of the premises are family concerns with dwelling accommodation attached, the provision of hand washing etc., facilities is usually met in the domestic bathroom. No difficulties have arisen in the administration of these regulations.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc) Regulations, 1947 - 1952.

There are no manufacturers of ice-cream in the District.

Byelaws in respect of Handling and Wrapping of Food etc.

These byelaws are operative within the District.

Food Inspection.

Slaughterhouses. There are two private licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	142	-	2	174	59
Number Inspected	142	-	2	174	59
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis &</u> <u>Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	7	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	2.81%	-	-	4.02%	15.25%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.40%	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Disposal of Condemned Food.

Condemned foodstuffs are disposed of by incineration except in the case of large quantities of meat or meat carcases when it is sent to a Knackers Yard.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	1,411
Total No. of informal notices served	22
Total No. of informal notices complied with	17
Total No. of statutory notices served	Nil
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil
No. of prosecutions	Nil

E. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Other than Tuberculosis -

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>
Measles	49
Whooping Cough	20
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	1
Erysipelas	1

Tuberculosis -

<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>New Cases Notified</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
	Nil	

Food Poisoning -

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

During the year epidemic diarrhoea was reported to have occurred amongst children attending Holwell School. Full investigations were carried out but all bacteriological investigations proved negative. The outbreak followed the pattern of a mild dysentery rather than food poisoning.

F. RADIATION HAZARDS

Artificial Radiation Hazards.

During the year I considered it necessary to draw your attention to a new threat to the public health, which as yet is more potential than real, but one which can be expected to increase year by year. You accepted my recommendation that your Public Health Officers should be afforded every opportunity to enlarge their knowledge of this subject and accepted in principle a proposal for monitoring your district for background radiation. Up to the end of the year I did not consider it necessary to make any further recommendation with regard to a local monitoring service, whilst awaiting the results of Government and other action in this matter.

The position will, however, require to be watched very carefully to ensure that Local Authorities (and their Officers) are allowed to take their proper place (as environmental health authorities) in the control of artificial radiation hazards.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.

